

I agree that knowing where money is coming from, where it is going, and in whose hand it sits is vital to U.S. national security.

However, I cannot support the text as written as it places significant burden on small businesses. The legislation creates a new regulatory database within Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN), a law enforcement unit, which most small businesses have never even heard of. And, even more alarming, if they don't comply, they could face a penalty of up to \$10,000 and a prison sentence of up to 3 years.

This could create significant unintended consequences for a large portion of the economy's commerce.

I believe there is a better path forward, which is why I have long supported aligning tax filings with collection of beneficial ownership information—a regulation small businesses already understand.

Furthermore, it is critical to note that the beneficial ownership information is already required and is already being collected. The Customer Due Diligence (CDD) Rule, which took effect in May 2018 requires banks to identify and verify the identity of the beneficial owners of companies opening accounts.

The CDD rule is operational and effective. Why would we upend this regulation, that has been working for over two years, to place unnecessary burdens on our local dry cleaners, our farming community, or the realtor that sold you your house, or any other small business? These are the types of individuals that will have to comply FinCEN, an organization they have never heard of, if this amendment becomes law.

We should be able to find a solution to collect this information that alleviates the bank burden while not subjecting small businesses to unnecessarily complicated reporting requirements.

For these reasons, I cannot support Ms. MALONEY's amendment.

TRIBUTE TO MASTER GUNNERY SERGEANT KENNETH PINCKARD

HON. GREGORY F. MURPHY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 2020

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Master Gunnery Sergeant Kenneth Pinckard in honor of his retirement from the Marine Corps after 28 faithful and honorable years of service. He spent his career supporting strategic intelligence operations, analyzing the enemy's intentions on the homefront and abroad, thus thwarting multiple enemy attacks and saving countless civilian and military lives in between.

Master Gunnery Sergeant Pinckard, a fearless leader, played an instrumental role in the development and recruitment of Marines coming into the command. All the freedoms we enjoy today are because of these brave men and women in uniform, like Master Gunnery Sergeant Pinckard, who so unselfishly and courageously put their lives in harm's way for their fellow brothers and sisters.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the retirement of this selfless Marine. I wish Master Gunnery Sergeant Pinckard and his family all the peace and blessings as they embark on this next journey together.

CONGRATULATING PRINCIPALS PATRICE BRAND AND ERIN DOTY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 2020

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, congratulations to Patrice Brand and Erin Doty on being named principals in Lexington-Richland School District Five. Together they bring over 40 years of experience to the school district for the students.

Patrice Brand has served as assistant principal of instruction at the Academy For Success since 2019. Prior to that job, she served as assistant principal at a middle school and a high school in Charlotte, N.C. She replaces Danielle Major-Murphy, who was named the new principal of Irmo Middle School.

Erin Doty previously served as the assistant principal of instruction at Irmo Middle School. She also served as assistant principal at Dutch Fork Middle School from August 2013 to June 2017. Doty replaces Justin Thomas, who was named the district's new coordinator of student information systems.

They have set the standard of excellence in their community through their work, and I wish them the best in their new positions.

WILLIAM M. (MAC) THORNBERRY NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021

SPEECH OF

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2020

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act.

Our country is going through turbulent times.

People are taking to the streets to cry out for real justice and an end to racism that pervades so many institutions in our country, not just the police or criminal justice system.

They are crying out for investments in society; in education, social services, housing, and healthcare.

Over the weekend, we lost one of our true champions for justice and equality, and a true leader a remarkable human being, Congressman John Lewis, who I was privileged to call a friend.

A deadly pandemic has killed over 140,000 Americans in nearly four months, and cases are still surging, setting new records almost daily in the last few weeks. Yet, the President continues to dissemble, disengage, and diminish the threat of this pandemic, despite the advice of our nation's public health experts and the obvious and immediate need for a credible and strong federal response and leadership.

That's what this moment is calling for . . . Leadership. Not more of the same.

But what we have here before us today folks is legislation that won't invest in a single meal for a hungry child, a vaccine for the pandemic, or help for the homeless or those about to lose their homes. Furthermore, the bill, in my opinion, is a retreat by Congress from its power to protect the power of the purse and our war powers.

I recognize and appreciate the work of Chairman SMITH and his committee on this legislation. I know that countless hours of hearings, testimony, and a long markup went into putting together this bill.

However, anyway you slice it, the Pentagon's budget has increased dramatically since September 11, 2001. The war in Afghanistan is the longest conflict in our nation's history and it shows little sign of ending, even with a supposed peace deal in hand.

I support the amendment put forward by Mr. POCAN that would cut the defense budget while still providing for our national defense. The amendment would exempt the Defense Health Programs and Military Personnel Accounts from any cuts.

We cannot continue to mindlessly push forward defense budgets that are out of line with the threats that face our nation or the needs of our country. The U.S. spends more money than any other country on our military, but can any American look around and say with a clear conscience that all that spending has produced more peace, more world stability, or better overall outcomes for Americans, or our global brothers and sisters?

All this treasure we throw at defense is not even helping the military itself, as a series of incidents over the past year has raised concerns about readiness.

In fact, we appear to be spending more and more money on defense, yet our forces are less and less prepared, and it is taking longer and more money to deploy weapons systems.

As noted by a bipartisan group of House members nearly a decade ago, "We know the United States can maintain the best fighting force in the world while also pursuing sensible defense savings. How we spend our resources is just as important as how much we spend."

Former Defense Secretary Robert Gates, who served under both Republicans and Democrats, put it succinctly: "We must come to realize that not every defense program is necessary, not every defense dollar is scared and well-spent, and that more of nearly everything is simply not sustainable" especially at a time when "the gap between the U.S. military and the rest of the world . . . will continue to be vast."

I would also have liked to support the Schakowsky amendment on Iran; unfortunately, it was not made in order. Last year, the House voted at least three times, including on the FY 2020 NDAA, about the need to prevent a needless war with Iran and to reclaim our war powers to ensure that any such decision properly remains the provenance of Congress.

I am grateful that the House Appropriations Committee recently adopted an amendment to its FY 2021 Defense Appropriations bill to stop a needless war with Iran absent formal congressional authority. But we need to take every opportunity to make clear how dangerous any ill-advised war with Iran would be. Given a President who's decision-making is as reckless as it is illinformed, this Congress must consistently push for an end to escalation and saber rattling and instead to work towards immediate diplomatic solutions. This bill is a missed opportunity, one I hope that we do not come back to regret.